

the costs incurred for episodes of physical therapy care were 123 percent lower when patients went to a physical therapist directly. State boards that regulate physical therapy confirm that patient safety is not compromised by the elimination of the referral requirement. With this in mind, the policy of improved access to physical therapists is healthy to the Medicare program and its beneficiaries. It is clear that improved access to physical therapists will maintain this critical balance of patient safety, cost to Medicare program, and improved beneficiary service. Medicare beneficiaries should have the same access to physical therapists as the rest of patients in Illinois and 35 other states.

Providing better access to qualified physical therapists will help ensure patients receive quality health care for all Americans. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues for their consideration and support of the Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act.

NEW JERSEY'S 11th DISTRICT—
PRIME RECRUITING GROUND
FOR ACADEMIES

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average proportion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of our area is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of the Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism that handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and as-

sist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as is true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and to thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 50 applicants. Nominations included 19 to the Naval Academy, 15 to the Military Academy, 2 to the Merchant Marine Academy and 7 to the Air Force Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. Congressman FRELINGHUYSEN then forwarded the recommendations to the academies by January 31, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it be in Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2002 11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JERSEY

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Mark C. Domogola, Short Hills, Millburn H.S.; Mark Cavanaugh, Flanders, Mt. Olive H.S.; Michael D. Fitzsimmons, Andover, Lenape Valley H.S.; Hannah Minchew, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.; Andrew J. Moreno, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S.; Don N. Smith, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Joseph E. Ziega, Sparta, Sparta H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE

Matthew J. Pulitano, Randolph, Morris Catholic H.S. Donald G. Maye, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Lee W. Barnes, Mendham, Rutgers; Duane W. Clark, Bloomingdale, Butler H.S.; Robert Connelly, Brookside, West Morris Mendham H.S.; Phillip A. Durkin, Sparta, Pope John XXIII H.S.; John R. Fiddes, III, Long Valley, Delbarton Andrew D. Filastro, Denville, Morris Knolls H.S.; Allison T. Gaydos, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.; Edward Gibbons, Chatham, Chatham H.S.; Timothy Kuppler, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Jason C. McKay, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.; Timothy Nagle, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.; William C. Nordlund, Mendham, St. Georges School; John R. Rashap, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Todd R. Stawicki, Bridgewater, Rutgers; Paul R. Wistmayer, Denville, Morristown Beard School.

NAVAL ACADEMY

David S. Bellomo, Whippany, Whippany Park H.S.; Gregory D. Butler, Bloomingdale, Bulter H.S. Joseph L. Caprio, Denville, Morris Knolls H.S.; Shannon E. Clancy, Califon, West Morris Central H.S.; Michael J. Coffey, Succasunna, Roxbury H.S.; Benjamin B. DeWitt, Mendham, Hill School; Christopher T. Dibble, Somerville, Somerville H.S.; Thomas K. Gallant, West Caldwell, James Caldwell H.S.; Joshua Haba, North Caldwell, West Essex H.S. Bryce C. Holden, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Richard L. Kilcoyne, III, Essex Fells, West Essex H.S.; Paul S. Kim, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Emily A. Laraway, Long Valley, West Morris Central H.S.; Daniel M. Leahey, Morris Plains, Morristown H.S.; Matthew F. Minor, Kinnelon, Kinnelon H.S.; Gregory A. Pappianou, Chester, West Morris Mendham H.S.; Erin C. Reeve, Madison, Madison H.S.; Christopher C. Smith, Succasunna, Roxbury H.S.; Craig G. Wilson, Sparta, Sparta H.S.

TRIBUTE TO THE AUSTRALIAN EX-
CHANGE WASHINGTON INTER-
SHIP PROGRAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to celebrate a unique international exchange that continues to enrich this institution and The Other Body annually.

Australia is half a world away from this chamber and my constituents in the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina. Yet Australians and Americans are close international allies and, in many ways, exceptionally close cousins in our democratic institutions, in our multiculturalism, and in the value we place on friendship.

Since 2000, a select handful of Australian university students have made the journey, at great personal expense, from Adelaide in South Australia to spend six-weeks full-time in very welcoming congressional offices. This year was my first such opportunity to host such an entrepreneurial student in Alison Cupper, who is originally from the neighboring Australian state of Victoria.

Alison has been a tireless assistant since the moment she arrived. She is here to study, which she has done daily in her enthusiasm to

learn all she can about the American system of government and in how even a brief visitor from overseas can help serve the people of South Carolina.

Alison is by no means alone in this adventure. Whether it has been Grant Harvey-Mutton in the office of Senator CHUCK HAGEL, or Briony Whitehouse in the office of SEN. CHRISTOPHER DODD, or Tamara Gale with our colleague ALCEE HASTINGS, or Joshua Bolton in the office of JERRY NADLER—each of the students has brightened our days with their curiosity, humanity, and the demeanor of the best tradition of polished diplomats.

Both the U.S. and Australian governments have been strong supporters of this exchange, and rightly so. It is an effort I hope continues on a small staple of US-Australian relations.

Late last month, Mr. Speaker, the Roll Call newspaper offered a small portrait of the program and its participants. I offer that text here to you and our colleagues so that we may all celebrate the value of this exchange, which is so delightfully focused on the students, and from which we can reinforce the values we hold dear about ourselves and about the world in which we live. Mr. Speaker, please join me and my colleagues in thanking everyone involved in creating and shepherding this internship program from its initial concept to the thriving institution it has become. They have done this nation and the Australian people numerous proud acts of public service, which I hope will continue for many years to come.

[From Roll Call, Jan. 27, 2003]

FAR FROM HOME; AUSTRALIANS BRAVE SNOW,
STRONG DOLLAR FOR INTERNSHIPS

(By Raya D. Widenoja)

Coming to Washington is always an adventure, but just imagine coming from the other side of the world. Five students from Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia, have, braving the elements for a back-stage look at American politics.

"It's just so bloody cold," commented Grant Harvey-Mutton, who recently left high summer in Adelaide to intern in Sen. Chuck Hagel's (R-Neb.) office on the 4-year-old program arranged by former Democratic Hill aide Eric Federer.

Federer, who is now the director of business public policy and government affairs for KPMG, was motivated to start the program after traveling and lecturing in Australia. He runs the program on a pro bono basis with professor Don DeBats of Flinders' American studies department. "The idea is to put good people in good places with good people," Federer says of his organizational philosophy. "[The students] learn stuff by being here that they couldn't possibly know otherwise . . . and some have parlayed this experience into good jobs in the Australian government."

Accompanying Harvey-Mutton are Joshua Balfour of Adelaide in Rep. Jerrold Nadler's (D-N.Y.) office; Alison Cupper of Mildura in Rep. James Clyburn's (D-S.C.) office; Tamara Gale of Yacka in Rep. Alcee Hastings' (D-Fla.) office; and Briony Whitehouse of Adelaide in Sen. Chris Dodd's (D-Conn.) office. Their internships will last until Feb. 14, with a reception in their honor at the Australian Embassy on Feb. 5.

The program is as much about bridging the cultural gap between the United States and Australia as it is about politics, says Federer. Although the countries are very similar in some ways, he says what the Australians call "the tyranny of distance" encourages a mutual ignorance.

The students haven't been here long—arriving on Christmas Day—but they already

have interesting tidbits to share about the differences in political culture.

"I was surprised at how polite the Members are to each other [in the chamber]," said Balfour. Members of parliament in Australia are much more "irreverent" when they address one another, Federer explained, and their remarks are generally "less scripted."

Gale said one of the most interesting things she has noticed is the seating arrangement on the House floor. In Australia the two main parties literally "face off" in opposing rows, so it was odd for her to see the Members all facing the Speaker.

Cupper, who studies law as well as international relations, said she was surprised to see how individualism manifests itself in U.S. culture and to observe the comparative weakness of organized labor movements. In Australia, one of the two main parties is called the Labor Party.

The program has garnered high praise from its start. In March 2000, after the first students left, Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.) submitted remarks for the Congressional Record praising the program and her intern, Estee Fiebiger, who, among other things, helped Sanchez's office analyze human rights in Vietnam. Back in Australia, Fiebiger was inspired by her experience to start an internship program of her own in the Labor Party.

According to Federer, at least twice as many Congressional offices have expressed interest in hosting the interns than are available. He is considering expanding the program, but despite growing interest among Flinders students—in part because even domestic political internships are uncommon in Australia—few students actually qualify so far.

The students must major either in American studies or political science, but it's the program's cost that really narrows the field. The students' airfare and housing is subsidized, but their out-of-pocket expenses add up to about 8,000 Australian dollars, which translates into \$4,500 for the six-week program.

"Interns would be beating down your door," Harvey-Mutton said, "if it weren't for the cost."

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE—RE-INTRO- DUCTION OF THE WARTIME PAR- ITY AND JUSTICE ACT OF 2003

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents to commemorate the Day of Remembrance. As we know, on February 19, 1942, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that led to the internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent. With the stroke of a pen, innocent men, women, and children became prisoners and were branded disloyal to the nation they called home. Lives were disrupted and homes were broken as these Americans were uprooted from their communities and locked behind barbed wire fences.

The force of wartime hysteria darkened the light of justice and reasonable people suddenly embarked on an unreasonable course. Indeed, America was engaged in a monumental struggle as our soldiers engaged the enemy in the European and Pacific Theatre. Here in the United States, many citizens had

faces that looked like that of the enemy. Without any evidence, fear was mounting, and the patriotism of these Japanese Americans was questioned. Some worried that they were intent on doing harm against the very flag they saluted. Decades later, history vindicated these loyal Americans as not even a single documented case of sabotage or espionage was committed by an American of Japanese ancestry during that time.

What our nation found through the disinfectant of time, those who endured internment knew all along. Surrounded by armed guards behind a prison fence, mothers thought of their sons who fought for the freedom of the nation that denied them of their own liberty. Indeed today the annals of military history show that the Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd and combat regiment fought honorably and bravely for ideals they knew our nation had not yet afforded to their own families back home. Still, they were worth fighting for. And this regiment would become the most decorated group of soldiers in American history as they proved their devotion to our nation fighting in both the European and Pacific theatres. It took more than 50 years, but finally in 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded 22 of these heroes with the Medal of Honor.

In 1983, a Presidential Commission concluded that the internment was the result of both racism and wartime hysteria. Five years later, then President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law that provided an official apology and redress to most of those confined in U.S. internment camps during World War II. This was the culmination of half a century of struggle to bring justice to those to whom it was denied. I am proud that our nation did the right thing. But fifteen years after the passage of the CLA, we still have unfinished work to be done to rectify and close this regrettable chapter in our nation's history.

Last Congress, I introduced bi-partisan legislation in Congress to finish the remaining work of redress. While most Americans are aware of the internment of Japanese Americans, few know about our government's activities in other countries resulting from prejudice held against people of Japanese ancestry. Recorded thoroughly in government files, the U.S. government involved itself in the expulsion and internment of an estimated 2,000 people of Japanese descent who lived in various Latin American countries. Uprooted from their homes and forced into the United States, these civilians were robbed of their freedom as they were kidnapped from nations not even directly involved in World War II. These individuals are still waiting for equitable redress, and justice cries out for them to receive it. That is why today I re-introduced the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2003 to finally turn the last page in this chapter of our nation's history.

This bill provides redress to every Japanese Latin American individual forcibly removed and interned in the United States. These people paid a tremendous price during one of our nation's most trying times. Indeed, America accomplished much during that great struggle. As we celebrate our great achievements as a nation let us also recognize our errors and join together as a nation to correct those mistakes. My legislation is the right thing to do to affirm our commitment to democracy and the rule of law.